



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 491  
Vancouver, Washington 98666-0491

TRANSMISSION SERVICES

April 8, 2011

In reply refer to: TEP-TPP-3

### **To: Parties Interested in the Proposed Walla Walla – Tucannon River Transmission Line Rebuild Project**

Bonneville Power Administration BPA is proposing to rebuild the Walla Walla – Tucannon River 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, located in Walla Walla and Columbia counties, Washington. This 47-mile wood pole transmission line was built in the early 1940s. Most of the structures, conductor, and associated structural components (cross arms, insulators, and dampers) are physically worn and there are some places that are structurally unsound. Based on the deteriorated condition of this transmission line, there is a need to rebuild the line to maintain reliable electrical service and to ensure public and worker safety.

BPA conducted public meetings in March 2010 regarding the proposal, contacted interested parties with information on the proposed project, and accepted comments on the proposal. Since that time, BPA conducted an environmental review of the proposal and prepared a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA). The preliminary EA describes the proposed project, the no action alternative, potential environmental impacts, and proposed mitigation measures that could avoid or minimize those impacts.

We now invite you to comment on the preliminary EA for the proposal and have included information on how to submit your comments. The EA is enclosed if you requested it during the scoping period. You can request a copy by calling 800-622-4520. The EA is also available online at [http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Walla\\_Walla-Tucannon\\_River\\_Rebuild/](http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Walla_Walla-Tucannon_River_Rebuild/).

**How to Comment** - BPA is accepting comments on the preliminary EA through **April 25, 2011**. You may submit comments online at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment), via mail to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - DKE-7, P.O. Box 14428, Portland, OR, 97293-4428, or by fax to 503-230-4019. Please reference “Walla Walla-Tucannon River Transmission Line Rebuild Project” on your comments. You also may call us with your comment toll free at 800-622-4519. BPA will post all comments in their entirety on BPA’s website at [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment).

BPA will produce a final EA in late spring 2011. Based on the analysis in the final EA, BPA will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if there is the potential for significant environmental impacts.

**For More Information** - If you have questions regarding the environmental process, please contact the environmental project lead, Stephanie Breeden, toll free at 800-282-3713; directly at 503-230-5192; or by e-mail [sfbreeden@bpa.gov](mailto:sfbreeden@bpa.gov). If you have other questions or would like more project information, you may call BPA toll free at 800-622-4519, e-mail me at [etorth@bpa.gov](mailto:etorth@bpa.gov), or call me at 360-619-6559. You may also visit the project website at [http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/Walla\\_Walla-Tucannon\\_River\\_Rebuild/](http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Walla_Walla-Tucannon_River_Rebuild/).

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Erich Orth*

Erich Orth  
Project Manager

Enclosures:

Comment Form

Walla Walla-Tucannon River Transmission Line Preliminary EA (if you requested a copy)

Postage-paid Envelope